

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NOS. 97-239-C & 96-318-C - ORDER NO. 97-611  
JULY 11, 1997

IN RE: Docket No. 97-239-C - Proceeding to	)	ORDER
Establish Guidelines for an Intrastate	)	DENYING
Universal Service Fund.	)	MOTION
	)	
AND	)	
	)	
Docket No. 96-318-C - Establishment	)	
of Fund to Address Revenue Impact on	)	
Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers	)	
Electing to Reduce Toll Switched	)	
Access Rates.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion of AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. (AT&T) for consolidation of Docket Nos. 97-239-C and 96-318-C. The former docket is our Universal Service Fund (USF) docket and the latter docket is our Interim LEC Fund (ILF) docket. The grounds for the Motion are that, in the opinion of AT&T, in order to effectively address the transition of the ILF into the USF, the two dockets should be consolidated.

The South Carolina Telephone Association (SCTA) responded to the Motion. SCTA states its belief that it is neither necessary nor appropriate to consolidate these two dockets, since it would not be appropriate to re-open the ILF docket to rehear issues

already addressed and resolved in that proceeding. According to SCTA, the only matter to be addressed in the USF docket relating to the earlier ILF order is the transitioning of the ILF into the USF, once funding for the USF is finalized and adequate to support the obligations of the ILF. SCTA further suggests that the Commission notify parties represented in Docket No. 96-318-C who are not parties to Docket No. 97-239-C that transitioning of the ILF into the USF will be addressed in the USF docket, and those parties should be given an opportunity to intervene out-of-time in Docket No. 97-239-C, if desired.

We agree with SCTA. We see no need to re-open the ILF docket to rehear issues already addressed and resolved in that proceeding. We agree that any party to the ILF docket that is not a party to the USF docket should be given an opportunity to intervene in the latter docket, and we hereby order Staff to notify any parties in the ILF docket who are not parties to the USF docket that the transitioning of the ILF into the USF will be considered in the USF docket, and that they may file a request to intervene out-of-time.


Accordingly, AT&T's Motion is denied.

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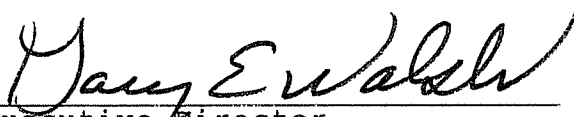
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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further  
Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)